

ABSTRACT

An agitator for agitating drilling fluid or other slurries or mixtures in a tank includes a pressurized and fluid-free compartment within the tank. The motor driving the agitator is housed in the fluid-free compartment. Control apparatus senses fluid levels and, in conjunction with a compressed gas source, maintains the compartment fluid-free. Additionally, when the fluid level in the enclosure drops to a predetermined minimum, the speed of the agitator may be slowed.